



# POWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Commission Chambers**  
**543 Bannock Ave.**  
**American Falls, ID 83211**  
[www.powercounty.id.us](http://www.powercounty.id.us)

**Monday, March 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 13, 2023, and called the meeting to order at the hour of 9:08 am, in the Commission Chambers of the Power County Courthouse.

## II. COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

PRESENT:	Commissioner Ron Funk, Chair Commissioner Delane Anderson Commissioner Bill Lasley
ABSENT:	None
STAFF:	Sharee Sprague, Clerk Casey Annen, Deputy Clerk Lissette Aguirre, Deputy Clerk Cathy Miles, Deputy Auditor
OTHER PARTIES PRESENT:	Alan Permann Art Meadows Bob Schreiber (phone) Brett Leyshon Deanna Curry Deborah Wynn Esme Cano Jami Fisher Jennifer Thaxton Jersey Sprague Josh Campbell Kasey Kendall Kevin Franck Laila Alvarez Laura Porath Mark Beitia Neal Timmerman Patryck Martinez Paul Laggis Zahir Mancilla

## III. AGENDA

### A. NOTICES/REPORTS

1. **Assessor Update:** Assessor Laura Porath and Kevin Franck updated the Commission on Ag Appraisal discussions. Mr. Franck reports he will clean up the process of Ag Land Appraisals to make it fair and equitable to all different areas in the county. Assessor Porath and Mr. Franck explained the current process that is used for Ag Land Appraisals. Assessor Porath reports her office has sent out church exemption reminders and the office should start to see them

coming back soon. Assessor Porath will keep the Commission updated throughout the year on changes.

2. **Extension Office Update:** Administrative Assistant Jennifer Thaxton presented an update for the Power County Extension Office. Ms. Thaxton reports she currently has 100 kids signed up in programs and there is still two months until the final deadline. In the archery class, 22 kids participated and currently there are 15 kids signed up for Lego Robotics. Commissioners inquire if there has been any interest to utilize the animal pens at the fairgrounds. Ms. Thaxton reports there are people using the pens. Last year a family signed the contract to use them and she expects this year she will have applicants as well. Ms. Thaxton reports she posts about 4H and tries to get the word out constantly to encourage 4H within the city.
3. **FFA Presentation:** The American Falls High School FFA Agricultural Issue Team appeared before the board of commissioners. They presented opposing issues in regards to the legalization of marijuana. They presented facts they found both for and against the legalization of marijuana. Patryck Martinez presented facts he found that marijuana decreases job performance and depth perception. Esmeralda Encanto presented facts that the FDA uses THC based cancer therapy treatments. The teams discussed the pros and cons of legalizing marijuana and the positive and negative impacts it could have on the community. The Ag Issues Team asked would you Puff or Pass on legalization of marijuana? Chief Deputy Sheriff Kasey Kendall determined he would Pass due to his knowledge of the negative aspects of the drug and the impact it has had in the community. Chief Deputy Kendall advised they presented both sides of the argument for legalization very well. Sheriff Campbell states he would pass as he has seen the effects of Marijuana being a gateway drug. Sheriff Campbell states he would be interested in hearing the statistics on illegal grows and how the legalization effected the amount of illegal grows happening. Sheriff Campbell compliments the presentation and efforts the members of the Ag Issue Teams put into preparing this presentation.
4. **Legislative Update Pat Sullivan:** Patrick Sullivan reports there is Property Tax Legislation that is pending. There are some concerns being raised with it. Mr. Sullivan is unsure of the possible outcome as discussions around the Property Tax Legislation is very active. Mr. Sullivan reports the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee is trying to make small cuts in different budgets. Mr. Sullivan reports they will be going over the K12 budget tomorrow. Mr. Sullivan reports money is being cut from transportation, from water and anything else they feel they can reduce and cut money out. Commissioners inform Mr. Sullivan they would like him to look into details of why JFAC abruptly stopped the ARPA funds that was set for daycares. The commission explains of the concerns brought before them in today's meeting and the effects on Power County's Daycare system. Clerk Sprague inquired on House Bill 0111 A bill to amend existing law to provide that no in-person student instruction shall take place on certain election days. Clerk Sprague states it was read a third time and then returned to Education Committee. Mr. Sullivan will go to the education committee and will inquire further and report back.
5. **Daycare Legislation:** Lexi Schritter owner and operator of Baby Bees Daycare along with Stephanie Schritter came before the commission to voice concerns over the legislative action recently taken to abruptly stop the federally funded monthly operational grant. Ms. Schritter operates the largest commercial daycare in all of Power County. Ms. Schritter provided the Early Childhood Education Workforce Report. Ms. Schritter explains there is a point system in place to allocate how many children to adult ratios are acceptable. She advises 12pts are allowed to one adult. The points are allocated depending on the age of the children. This is a good amount of kids to one adult. Keeping good quality staff is important to providing a quality daycare. The risk of burn out and the turnover rate is real and effects daycares. Ms. Schritter states she has had twenty (20) different employees and only two have been able to stay and

accept being paid the hourly wage of \$10.00 an hour due to their spouses making a higher wage. Ms. Schritter uses the funds she was receiving to pay employees a higher wage as well as fund necessary safety upgrades to the daycare building. Ms. Schritter informs the commission she is in the process of buying the building and plans to operate the center with the highest quality care possible. Ms. Schritter reports she is unable to offer health insurance to her employees because she simply cannot afford it. Ms. Schritter has 80 families and 84 children enrolled in her daycare. Each of these families are at risk of their rates being raised, or the daycare closing down. Daycare is a business of heart not a business of making money. Often times daycare tuition goes unpaid and the operating expense does not decrease. Ms. Schritter explains that \$43 million was already federally allocated to daycares and the Idaho Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee failed to give spending approval for the Department of Health and Welfare child care supplemental ARPA dollars. Due to this abrupt halt of needed funding daycare owners like Ms. Schritter can't promise their center being able to stay in business. This places a crisis on the citizens of Power County and the economy for Power County. Ms. Schritter states that in these instances staff walks out and the business won't survive the year. Ms. Schritter reports she has just raised the price of daycare tuition in January can't raise it again. Ms. Schritter asks the commission to reach out to legislators and voice their concerns. Ms. Schritter asks for the commission to help support local daycares in Power County by raising awareness. The commission explains they have a lobbyist Patrick Sullivan, that the commission will bring this topic up to him and have him look into this issue.

## **B. MOTIONS:**

1. **Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda for Monday, March 13, 2023, was presented by Commissioner Funk with a second by Commissioner Anderson. Following audible call of the Board, motion unanimously carried.
2. **Power County Soil Conservation Update:** Brett Leyshon, Alan Permann, Jami Fisher & Jeff Stewart presented the Power County Soil Conservation report. A motion to approve the budget request of \$11,000.00 for the Power County Soil Conservation Board was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Funk. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried. Jami Fisher will send the scholarship application to Clerk Sprague and she will then distribute it to the School Districts to make available for any student wanting to apply for the scholarship. Upon discussion it was determined the county will look into giving a place on the webpage for the Soil Conservation District when the county website is redone.
3. **Fairgrounds Quote:** Commissioner Lasley reports the Knudsen Irrigation quote is for replacement of wheel lines at the fairgrounds. A motion to approve the Knudsen Irrigation, Inc. quote number 475 in the amount of \$2,301.48 to be paid from PILT was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Funk. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried.
4. **Building & Grounds:** Upon discussion of the progress on the Assessor's office remodel, it was determined to move forward with the electrical changes necessary the commission proposes a motion to ratify the decision that was made to authorize TF Enterprises for the computer upgrade wiring system that was necessary in the amount of \$5,792.27 was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Anderson. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried. Lee Dille had reported to staff that once the work was completed he would adapt his renderings

to include the upgraded electrical. Mr. Dille was not in attendance. Upon discussion, a motion to ratify the agreement with DeGiulio Commercial Property Inspections LLC that was made on February 21, 2023 was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Anderson. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried.

5. **Claims:** A motion to approve Anderson Auto Body Claim in the amount of \$254.35 was presented by Commissioner Funk, with a second by Commissioner Lasley. Commissioner Anderson abstained. Following audible call of the Board, motion unanimously carried.

A motion to approve the claims approval report in the amount of \$295,022.41 was presented by Commissioner Anderson with a second by Commissioner Lasley. Following an audible call of the board, the motion unanimously carried. Upon approval of the Board, the summary of claims paid are as follows;

FUND	Paid
0001 GENERAL FUND (CURRENT EXPENSE)	\$ 48,008.76
0002 SICK BANK COMPENSATION	\$ -
0003 FAIR BOARD	\$ 250.00
0004 POWER COUNTY AMBULANCE DIST.	\$ 11,287.01
0005 POWER COUNTY ABATEMENT DIST.	\$ 16,060.00
0006 DISTRICT COURT	\$ 2,227.23
0008 JUSTICE FUND	\$ 17,488.13
0009 DRUG COURT	\$ 195.00
0010 ENHANCED 911 SERVICES	\$ 1,881.36
0011 HEALTH DISTRICT	\$ 337.00
0015 ELECTIONS	\$ 323.96
0016 INDIGENT	\$ 10,847.30
0017 JUNIOR COLLEGE TUITION	\$ -
0020 REVALUATION	\$ 3,458.86
0023 SOLID WASTE (LANDFILL)	\$ 29,109.65
0024 TORT	\$ 44,636.00
0027 WEEDS	\$ 51.55
0038 WATERWAYS	\$ 27,348.37
0039 MUSEUM	\$ 852.80
0041 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT	\$ -
0050 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$ -
0051 BOND - WATER RIGHTS	\$ 80,659.43
<b>Total Amount Paid</b>	<b>\$ 295,022.41</b>

A motion to approve doing a demand check for Idaho Wholesale in the amount of \$73,000.00 for the court house windows was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a

second by Commissioner Funk. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Miles reported that in the department head meeting she will discuss that if credit cards are reaching their limit or will go over their limit the department head needs to contact Cathy and she can do a demand to pay the card down so the county does not incur the \$25.00 fee for going over their limit. Treasurer Curry will call and look into why the ICCU cards are allowing the cards to go over the limit.

A motion to have Terrell Sorensen's name taken off the Extension office credit card and to have Jennifer Thaxton's name be placed on it and to review the discussion when a new department head is in place was presented by Commissioner Funk with a second by Commissioner Lasley. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried.

6. **M2 Proposals:** Upon discussion of the current security system at the Ambulance Building, A motion to accept the proposal from M2 Automation for Ambulance Building Security in the amount of \$31,645.38 and to be paid from ARPA was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Funk. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried. After discussion of the location of the Jail Panic Button proposal by M2 Automation, it was decided to have M2 rework the functionality and layout and present a new proposal with consideration to the items discussed today. Chief Deputy Sheriff Kendall reports Day Wireless has an inmate transportation company and they are interested in purchasing the partition in the truck that was wrecked. Day Wireless will sell that to them and then use those funds to purchase the dodge partition. There may be a \$100 - \$200 difference ICRMP may have to pay. Chief Deputy Kendall reports the Dodge will go to sign up for graphics and then it will go straight to Day Wireless for upfitting and should be done and operation on the roadway in April.
7. A motion to authorize the Sheriff to pursue filling staffing needs for the Sheriff's office was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Anderson. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried.
8. **Personnel Updates:** Payroll Clerk Lissette Aguirre reported on several personnel changes for the county. Ms. Aguirre reports that impacted budget lines have been reviewed for sustainability of the requested changes and submitted the following changes;
  - The Sheriff's Department would like to hire an employee to be a Detention Deputy and requests Tyler James Thomson receive \$16,640.00 annually or \$20.00 hourly as compensation for completion of assigned job duties.Following discussion, a motion to accept personnel updates as submitted and to direct Sheriff Campbell to monitor the cost as laid out in the Salary approval form was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Funk. Following audible call of the Board, motion unanimously carried.
9. **Youth Center:** Deborah Wynn, Art Meadows along with Bob Schreiber on the phone, reported to the Commission to hold discussion on the Youth Center. Ms. Wynn reports

the paper towels have specific fixtures and they do not have the keys to it. Ms. Wynn inquired with facilities manager Chet Taylor if the center needed to purchase them or what process to follow to take care of the issue. Ms. Wynn states the center is happy to purchase their own supplies but wanted to ensure they were on the same page with the Commission and to see if Mr. Taylor had the keys to the dispensers. Commissioner Anderson reports there was a concern with the restrooms being dirty and needing to be serviced. Commissioner Lasley reports the cleaning of the youth center was done by the youth center. Ms. Wynn reports they depend on the supervisors to vacuum and to keep the facility clean. Mr. Taylor reports he has dispensers that he can install at the youth center as well as extra keys to provide them. Mr. Taylor reports he has purchased the supplies from Hansen's in Pocatello and supplies for new dispensers come from Waxie which is located in Idaho Falls. A motion to direct Mr. Taylor to place new dispensers in the Extension office and to leave the older dispensers in the youth center and to donate two cases of paper towels and two cases of toilet paper to the youth center was presented by Commissioner Funk with a second by Commissioner Lasley. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried. Discussion was held to review again at budget time on this matter. Commissioner Anderson suggests a closing duty check sheet for the center supervisors or even teens in the evening to help with cleaning of the facility. Mr. Meadows states they will discuss janitorial issues with the supervisors.

10. **Non-Disclosure Agreement:** A motion to table the Non-Disclosure Agreement discussion was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Funk. Following audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried.

#### **C. POINTS OF ORDER:**

1. The following discussions were tabled; Approval of Past Meeting Minutes, I.T. Update, Non-Disclosure Agreement, Airport Lease Review, Gateway West Project,

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

1. **Executive Personnel Session I.C. 74-206(1)(b) 12:54 am:** A motion to enter into executive session to consider personnel actions pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Anderson. Deputy Clerk Casey Annen conducted roll call on the motion;
  - Commissioner Funk, AYE
  - Commissioner Lasley, AYE
  - Commissioner Anderson, AYEFollowing roll call of the Board, motion unanimously carried. Upon conclusion of discussion, Commissioner Funk declared the meeting open at 1:19 pm.
2. **Executive Personnel Session I.C. 74-206(1)(b) 2:48 pm:** A motion to enter into executive session to consider personnel actions pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Funk. Deputy Clerk Casey Annen conducted roll call on the motion;
  - Commissioner Funk, AYE
  - Commissioner Lasley, AYE
  - Commissioner Anderson, AYE

Following roll call of the Board, motion unanimously carried. Upon conclusion of discussion, Commissioner Funk declared the meeting open at 3:16 pm.

3.

**Executive Indigent Session pursuant to I.C. §74-206 4:02 pm:** A motion to enter into executive session pursuant to I.C. §74-206, to consider records that are exempt from disclosure under Chapter 3, Title 9, Idaho Code, specifically indigent medical applications was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Funk. Deputy Clerk Casey Annen conducted roll call on the motion;

- Commissioner Funk, AYE
- Commissioner Lasley, AYE
- Commissioner Anderson, AYE

Following roll call of the Board, motion unanimously carried. Upon conclusion of discussion, Commissioner Funk declared the meeting open at 4:08 pm.

**V. ASSESSMENTS/CONCLUSIONS:**

1. **Next Meeting:** The next regular session for the board to meet is slated for March 27, 2023
2. **Adjourn:** Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was presented by Commissioner Anderson with a second by Commissioner Funk. Following audible call of the Board, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 pm.

The foregoing minutes were approved by the Board of County Commissioners during the Special Board Meeting held March 28, 2023.

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
CASEY ANNEN, Deputy Clerk



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COMMISSIONER FUNK, Chairman